Mr. K. VENKATARAMIAH.—Is it not in lieu of toll that service tax is levied ?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—Yes.

Mr. K. VENKATARAMIAH.—On account of buses using district board roads, do the boards get any share of the receipts from seat tax ?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—All the collections are credited to the Road Fund first and then the share of each district board is allotted.

Mr. K. VENKATARAMIAH.—Previously, only one kind of cess was being levied on motor vehicles and a certain portion of the collections therefrom was being given to each district board and municipality. Subsequently, the burden of taxation on motor vehicles was increased. Are the district boards and municipalities getting any extra income as a result of the enhanced rates ?

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—Notice.

Mr. M. SUBBAIYA.—Who inspects the buses ?

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—Inspectors are appointed for each district. They submit reports to the District Magistrates and on their recommendation the Traffic Board passes orders.

Mr. M. SUBBAIYA.—Whatever the Inspectors say in their reports will also be the final decision, is it not ?

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—No. They merely give a certificate as to the condition of each bus.

Mr. M. SUBBAIYA.—Then, is there anybody to scrutinise the certificate granted by the Inspectors ?

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—There is a Senior Bus Inspector at Bangalore. If there is doubt in any case, he will be sent to inspect the bus again and check the certificate given by the Inspector.

Mr. M. SUBBAIYA.—Has the Senior Bus Inspector at any time been so sent ?

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—Certainly.

Mr. M. SUBBAIYA.—And has he reported at any time that buses were wrongly certified by the Inspector ?

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—I cannot go into such details during question-time.

Mr. M. SUBBAIYA.—All that I wish to urge is that Inspectors' reports should not be taken as gospel truth.

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—That is not being done ; and that is exactly why I said that whenever any doubt is felt, the reports or certificates are got scrutinized.

Anecut across the Thunga River near Sakrebyle.

Q.—75. **Mr. Kadidal MANJAPPA** (Tirthahalli—Rural).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether they have decided to construct an *anecut* across the Thunga River near Sakrebyle in Shimoga District ;

(*b*) if so, whether an estimate therefor has been prepared ;

(*c*) the total expenditure involved according to the estimate ;

(*d*) the estimated acreage of lands that would come under cultivation according to this scheme :

(*e*) the taluks to which these lands belong ;

(*f*) the probable assessment that could be collected from the lands that could be cultivated under this scheme ;

(*g*) how many people have assured the Government to take up lands which will become fit for cultivation under the *anecut* ;

(*h*) as a result of this project how many acres of land in Tirthahalli Taluk would get submerged, the amount of compensation payable therefor, and the assessment that is being collected now from those lands ;

(*i*) whether they have consulted the people of Tirthahalli Taluk in regard to the construction of this *anecut* ?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (Mr. M. G. Mehkri).**—

(*a*) The project is still under the consideration of Government.

(*b*) Yes ; a rough estimate has been prepared and the details are being got up.

(*c*) Rs. 52 lakhs approximately.

(*d*) About 27,000 acres.

(*e*) Shimoga and Honnali.

(*f*) Gross revenue expected is Rs. 1,72,500 approximately.

(*g*) A list of survey numbers that can be irrigated is sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga, for obtaining individual *mutchalikas* from the concerned raiyats.

(*h*) About 757 acres 19 guntas. A probable compensation of Rs. 75,000. The assessment collected at present on the wet and dry lands likely to be submerged is about Rs. 1,000 at an average rate of Re. 1 per acre of dry and Rs. 4 per acre of wet.

(*i*) No.

Mr. Kadidal MANJAPPA.—With reference to answer (*i*), have the Government any idea of consulting the people of the concerned taluks in regard to the construction of the *anecut* ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Yes.

Mr. Kadidal MANJAPPA.—While considering the project, will any measures to prevent malaria be considered also ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—That question also is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—What is the acreage contribution expected to be levied on the raiyats ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—That has not yet been finally settled. How many survey numbers will be included in the *atchkat* will have to be known first. Then, *mutchalikas* from the concerned raiyats have to be obtained and the estimates prepared thereafter. The question of acreage contribution will be taken up only after all that is done.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Has any soil survey been conducted in the tract ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—No.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Is there any proposal to generate electricity at the place ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Not for the present.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—What is the quantity of water expected to be impounded in the reservoir ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Notice.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Will the project be taken up this year alone ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I cannot say that definitely.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—What is the water-rate that would have to be levied if the gross revenue should amount to Rs. 1,72,500 ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—The exact rate is not settled, but roughly it may be fixed at Rs. 6.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—Will that have to be paid in addition to the existing wet assessment ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—On dry lands the levy may be Rs. 6 ; on wet lands it may be something less.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—In view of the experience of other projects, would it not be desirable, before undertaking the project, to consider all aspects of the scheme to obviate any future trouble and inconvenience to the raiyats ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Certainly. How far the scheme will be helpful to the people will also have to be considered. Nothing will be done hastily. The member may rest assured about it.

Mr. B. CHAMAIYA.—Have the Hyderabad and Madras Governments to be consulted before the construction of the project ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—No.

Another MEMBER.—Are the Government aware that the local officers are holding public meetings where they have been compelling the raiyats to pay acreage contribution at Rs. 60 and to execute *mutchalikas* agreeing to do so ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—No.

The same MEMBER.—Is not Rs. 60 excessive ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I cannot say.

The MEMBER.—Are the Government aware that in respect of lands served by the Bhadra Channel, acreage contribution at only Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 was levied from the raiyats ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—That question does not arise.

The MEMBER.—Will the Government kindly see that the acreage contribution in the present case is not fixed as high as Rs. 60 but only at Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—When the necessary details are not yet settled, how can we commit ourselves to any particular rate?

The MEMBER.—When things are so indefinite, why should the raiyats be compelled to execute *mutchalikas* agreeing to pay a contribution of Rs. 60 per acre?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Government are not aware that raiyats are being compelled.

The MEMBER.—Now that we have brought the matter to notice, will the matter be enquired into and the officers instructed not to subject the raiyats to such compulsion?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—We will enquire about it.

Another MEMBER.—And if, as a result of the enquiries, Government feel that the rate agreed to by the raiyats in such circumstances, *viz.*, Rs. 60, is too high, will they reduce the rate?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—If the rate is excessive, they may apply for a reduction.

Inter-Village Communications in the Malnad.

Q.—76. **Mr. Bikkali SITHARAMIAH** (Koppa—Rural).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the number of village panchayats in the malnad taluks of the State;

(*b*) the jamabandi of these panchayats during 1939-40;

(*c*) the arrears outstanding at the end of 1939-40; [Talukwar information to be furnished in respect of (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*)];

(*d*) whether they are aware that as a result of the houses in the malnad being far removed from one another and three-fourths of them being thatched houses, the income derived by the panchayats is not in proportion to their areas;

(*e*) whether it has come to their notice that owing to the existence of hills and dales in these parts, it is not possible to open roads out of the present income of the panchayats?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, LAW DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. V. Narayana Rao).**—

(*a*) to (*c*) *Vide* statement appended.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes; under the Inter-Village Road Scheme, the village panchayats are expected to contribute only a portion of the cost of the construction of roads and the Deputy Commissioners have been empowered to allow exemption to village panchayats which have not got sufficient money to pay for the purpose.

Mr. Bikkali SITHARAMIAH.—Whose responsibility is it to collect the dues of the village panchayats?

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—Of the Revenue Department.

Mr. Bikkali SITHARAMIAH.—Since when have they been discharging that responsibility?

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—From 1939-40.

Mr. Bikkali SITHARAMIAH.—In some taluks, 5 to 6 years' demand is still in arrear. Does it show that the department did not make any collections at all?

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—The collections this year are better, as a result of circular instructions issued in the matter.

Mr. Bikkali SITHARAMIAH.—If dues remain uncollected for many years together, will it not be very difficult for the raiyats to pay all the arrears in a lump on demand?

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—Yes.

Mr. Bikkali SITHARAMIAH.—In some panchayats, even small sums have not been collected. How can they go on with their work?

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—If there are any such cases, we will try to find out why small sums were not collected.

Mr. Kadidal MANJAPPA.—Are not the heavy outstandings the reason why the panchayats are unable to pay any contribution towards the construction of roads?

Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.—No.

Mr. Kadidal MANJAPPA.—Will those panchayats which cannot contribute towards the cost of construction of roads be exempted from payment?